

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for allowing a mediator server to act as an intermediary agent between a service provider and a service purchaser comprising the steps of;

(a) providing a mediator server communicatable with at  
5 least one service provider and at least one service purchaser through their respective terminals over a communication network, and

(b) receiving at said mediator server service offering information including the service provider's name, offered  
10 services and other information from said service provider,

(c) forwarding said service offering information to said service purchaser from said mediator server,

(d) at said mediator server receiving purchase service request information including the service purchaser's name,  
15 service being purchased and other information from said service purchaser, and

(e) forwarding said purchase service request information to said service provider from said mediator server, wherein said mediator server acts as an intermediary agent  
20 between the service provider and the service purchaser.

2. The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein upon receiving the service offering information from service providers, said mediator server forwards a listing of service providers, offered services and associated information to at least service

5 purchaser's terminal;

said mediator server allows said service purchaser to select a particular service provider from said listing displayed on the service purchaser's terminal, there upon said mediator server forwards the service purchase request information to said  
10 particular service provider selected by said service purchaser for display on said service provider's terminal; and

through said mediator server and based on the service purchase request information displayed on the service provider's terminal, said service provider is allowed to accept  
15 the service purchase request, there upon to reach an agreement between said particular service provider and said service purchaser.

3. The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein several kinds of currencies are applicable when the service offered by said service provider and received by said service purchaser is paid for.

4. A method for allowing a mediator server to act as an intermediary agent between a service provider and a service purchaser when services are sold and purchased between the service provider and service purchaser wherein said mediator  
5 server, said service provider and said service purchaser can communicate with each other through their respective terminals over a communication network and wherein said method includes the steps of:

(a) allowing said service provider to send the service  
10 offering registration information from said service provider's  
terminal, referred to as "provider terminal" to said mediator  
server over the network;

(b) allowing said mediator server to record, in a database,  
the service offering registration information received from  
15 said provider terminal;

(c) allowing said service purchaser to send the service  
purchaser identification information from said service  
purchaser's terminal, referred to as "purchaser terminal" to  
said mediator server over the network;

20 (d) allowing said mediator server to record, in said  
database, the service purchaser identification information  
received from said purchaser terminal;

(e) allowing said service purchaser to select a particular  
service purchase information from said service offering  
25 information displayed on said purchaser terminal, and send the  
selected service purchase information from said purchaser  
terminal to said mediator server over the network;

(f) in response to said service purchase information  
received from said service purchaser, allowing said mediator  
30 server to create the service purchase request information for  
forwarding it to the service provider selected by said service  
purchaser for display on said provider terminal;

(g) allowing said service provider, based on the service

purchase request information received from said mediator server  
35 and displayed on said provider terminal, to make a decision on  
whether said service provider should accept or decline the  
service purchase request, and to notify the resulting decision  
to said mediator server over the network; and

(h) allowing said mediator server to forward said decision  
40 received from said service provider to said service purchaser  
over the network, wherein if the decision made by said service  
provider is to accept the service purchase request, it is  
determined that an agreement is reached between said service  
provider and said service purchaser, and the service is supplied  
45 from said service provider to said service purchaser.

5. The method as defined in Claim 3, further including the step  
of:

(i) causing said service purchaser to pay said service  
provider for the service supplied by said service provider and  
5 received by said service purchaser when it is completed, wherein  
said service purchaser and said service provider may optionally  
select any one among several different currencies agreed upon  
by said service provider and said service purchaser to pay for  
the service received.

6. A service transaction mediating system for allowing a  
mediator server to act as an intermediary agent in service  
transaction between a service provider and a service purchaser,  
wherein

5           said mediator server, service providers and service purchasers are communicatable with each other through their respective terminals over a communication network;

          said mediator server includes a database on which the service offering registration information submitted by said  
10   service provider is recorded;

          said mediator server includes means for allowing said mediator server to send a listing of services offered from said service providers and recorded on said database to any of said service purchasers and for allowing said service purchaser to  
15   select any particular service provider from said listing being displayed on said service purchaser's terminal, whereby said service purchaser and said service provider may use their respective terminal to conduct the service transaction through said mediator server.

7. The system as defined in Claim 6, further including:

          means for allowing said service provider to make a decision on whether said service provider should accept or decline the service purchase request, based on said service  
5   purchase request information being displayed on said service provider's terminal, and for allowing said service provider to notify the decision to said mediator server; and

          means for allowing said mediator server to forward the notification of said decision received from said service  
10   provider to said service purchaser.

8. The system as defined in Claim 6, wherein several kinds of currencies are applicable when the service offered by said service provider and received by said service purchaser is paid for.

9. A transaction mediating system for allowing a mediator server to act as an intermediary agent on service transaction between a service provider and a service purchaser comprising:

a terminal used by a service provider, referred to as  
5 "provider terminal";

a terminal used by a service purchaser referred to as  
"purchaser terminal"; and

a mediator server having a database and being connectable  
to said provider terminal and to said purchaser terminal over  
10 a network, wherein

(a) said provider terminal includes means for allowing  
said service provider to provide the service offering  
registration information on the service offering registration  
entry display appearing on said provider terminal, and to send  
15 said service offering registration information to said mediator  
server over the network;

(b) said purchaser terminal includes means for allowing  
said service purchaser to provide the purchaser identification  
information on the service purchaser registration entry display  
20 appearing on said purchaser terminal, and to send said purchaser  
identification information to said mediator server over said

computer network; and

(c) said mediator server includes means for allowing said mediator server to record the service offering registration  
25 information received from said provider terminal and the purchaser identification information received from said purchaser terminal on said database, and wherein

(d) said purchaser terminal further includes means for displaying the service offering information received from said  
30 mediator server on said purchaser terminal, and for allowing said service purchaser to identify and select a service to be purchased from the service offering information, to enter the service purchase information including the identified and selected service, and to send the service purchase information  
35 to said mediator server over the network;

(e) said mediator server further includes means for allowing said mediator server to produce a service purchase request information from said service purchase information received from said purchaser terminal, and forward the service  
40 purchase request information to the service provider of the selected service for display on said provider terminal;

(f) said provider terminal further includes means for allowing said service provider, based on said service purchase request information displayed on said provider terminal, to make  
45 a decision on whether said service provider should accept or decline said service purchase request, and to send the

information for the decision back to said mediator server; and

(g) said mediator server further includes means for recording the decision information received from said service  
50 provider on said database, and means for notifying the decision to said service purchaser,

(h) whereby said service purchaser may be ready to receive the service offered by said service provider when said service provider makes the decision to accept the service  
55 purchase request submitted by said service purchaser.

10. The system as defined in Claim 9, wherein

said mediator server further includes means for allowing said mediator server to generate a registration number to be assigned to the service provider prior to recording said service  
5 offering registration information on said database, to record the service provider registration number together with said service offering registration information on said database, and to send said service provider registration number to said service provider for display on said provider terminal; and

10 said mediator server further includes means for allowing said mediator server to generate a registration number to be assigned to the service purchaser prior to recording the purchaser identification information on said database, to record the service purchaser registration number together with  
15 said purchaser identification information on said database, and to send said service purchaser registration number to said



service purchaser for display on said purchaser terminal,  
whereby

said purchaser terminal allows said service purchaser to  
20 have access to said mediator server by using said service  
purchaser registration number; and

said provider terminal allows said service provider to  
have access to said mediator server by using said service  
provider registration number.

11. The system as defined in Claim 9, wherein

when said service purchaser pays said service provider for  
the service offered by said service provider and received by said  
service purchaser when it is completed, said service purchaser  
5 and said service provider may optionally select any one among  
several different currencies agreed upon by said service  
provider and said service purchaser to pay for the services.

12. The system as defined in Claim 9, wherein

on the purchaser terminal, when the service offering  
information is received from said mediator server, a service  
type list-selection display on which service types offered by  
5 said service provider are listed is displayed;

the purchaser terminal allows said service purchaser to  
select a service type from said service type list-selection  
display, and optionally select a particular service item from  
service items listed in the service type selected;

10 in response to the selection made on said purchaser

terminal, said mediator server is caused to access said database in order to search for the information for the service providers that offer the service type and/or service item selected by said service purchaser, and if found, is caused to edit said service  
15 provider information to produce a service provider list-selection display, and send the service provider list-selection display to said purchaser terminal for display; and

the purchaser terminal allows said service purchaser to select a service provider that offers the service being  
20 purchased from said service provider list-selection display, and optionally enter the terms and conditions under which the service is to be purchased, wherein upon confirmation of the desired service, the service purchase information is transferred to said mediator server.

13. The system as defined in Claim 9, wherein the service offering registration information display on said provider terminal contains the following entry fields: the name of the service provider, the location of the service provider to  
5 contact, the contents and price of the offered service, and the currency designated for use in paying for the service offered.

14. The system as defined in Claim 9, wherein the service purchaser registration display on said purchaser terminal contains the following entry fields: the name of the service purchaser, the location of the service purchaser to contact, the  
5 content of the purchased service, and the currency designated

for use in paying for the service received.

15. The system as defined in Claim 9, wherein said service provider list-selection display contains the following fields: the service provider names, locations to contact and offered unit prices, including the following entry fields: the start  
5 date and hours on and during which the service is desired to be received from the service provider selected from the list.

16. The system as defined in Claim 9, wherein said service purchase request information display contains a list of service providers, including the following fields: the service provider names, service start date, location where the service is offered,  
5 service days and hours, and location to contact, and further includes a service provider registration number entry field and action fields.

17. A mediator server apparatus, said mediator server apparatus being connectable to service provider terminals and to service purchaser terminals over a network and comprising:

means for allowing said mediator server to record services  
5 offered by said service provider terminal on a database;

means for allowing said mediator server to send a list of service providers to a service purchaser for display on said service purchaser terminal so that said service purchaser can select a service purchaser from the list of service providers  
10 being displayed on said service purchaser terminal; and

means for allowing said mediator server to send a service

purchase request information for the service selected by said service purchaser to said service provider for display on said service provider terminal.

18. The mediator server apparatus as defined in Claim 17, wherein said service provider terminal includes means for allowing the service provider to make a decision on whether said service provider should accept or decline the service purchase request, based on the service purchase request information received from said mediator server, and

wherein said mediator server apparatus further includes means for allowing the mediator server to forward the decision made by said service provider to said service purchaser over a communication medium.

19. A mediator server apparatus to act as an intermediary agent in the service transaction between a service provider and a service purchaser, said mediator server apparatus having a database and being connectable to a terminal used by said service provider referred to as "provider terminal", and to a terminal used by said service purchaser, referred to as "purchaser terminal", over a network, the apparatus comprising:

means for allowing said mediator server to receive, over the network, a service offering registration information provided by said service provider on a service registration information entry display on said provider terminal and a purchaser identification information provided by said service

purchaser on a service purchaser registration entry display on said purchaser terminal, and to record said service offering  
15 registration information and said purchaser identification information on said database;

means for allowing said mediator server to receive the service offering information from said service provider and transfer said service offering information to said purchaser  
20 terminal;

means for allowing said mediator server to receive, from said purchaser terminal and over the network, the service purchase information containing the service to be purchased that is provided by said service purchaser selecting a desired  
25 service from said service offering information displayed on said purchaser terminal and entering any required purchase information together with the selected service on said purchaser terminal, and to transfer a service purchase request information to the provider terminal on the service provider offering said  
30 selected service;

means for allowing said mediator server to receive, from said provider terminal and over the network, the decision on whether to accept or decline the service purchase request that is made by said service provider looking at said service offering  
35 information displayed on said provider terminal, and record the information on the decision, i.e., accept or decline, on said database; and

means for allowing said mediator server to notify the decision to said service purchaser, whereby when the decision  
40 made by said service provider is to accept the service purchase request, the agreement between said service provider and said service purchaser is determined to be reached, and the service selected by said service purchaser may be supplied by said service provider to said service purchaser.

20. The mediator server apparatus as defined in Claim 19, further comprising:

means for allowing said mediator server to generate a registration number to be assigned to said service provider  
5 prior to recording said service offering registration information on said database, to record the generated service provider registration number together with said service offering registration information on said database, and to send said service provider registration number to said provider  
10 terminal; and

means for allowing said mediator server to generate a registration number to be assigned to said service purchaser prior to recording said purchaser identification information on said database, to record the generated service purchaser  
15 registration number together with said purchaser identification information on said database, and to send said service purchaser registration number to said purchaser terminal, whereby said service purchaser on said purchaser terminal may have access to

20 said mediator server by using said service purchaser registration number, and said service provider on said provider terminal may have access to said mediator server by using said service provider registration number.

21. A computer readable program product for performing, service transactions on a mediator server, said mediator server acting as an intermediary agent, service transactions between a service provider and a service purchaser, and said mediator server  
5 having a database and being connectable to a terminal used by said service provider referred to as "provider terminal", and to a terminal used by said service purchaser referred to as "purchaser terminal", over a network,

wherein the program product causes the mediator server to  
10 perform the steps comprising:

(a) allowing said mediator server to receive, over the network, a service offering registration information provided by said service provider on a service registration information entry display at said provider terminal, and a purchaser  
5 identification information provided by said service purchaser on a service purchaser registration entry display at said purchaser terminal, and to record said service offering registration information and said purchaser identification information on said database;

10 (b) allowing said mediator server to receive the service offering information from said service provider and transfer

said service offering information to said purchaser terminal;

(c) allowing said mediator server to receive, from said purchaser terminal and over the network, the service purchase  
15 information containing a service to be purchased that is provided by said service purchaser selecting the desired service from said service offering information displayed on said purchaser terminal, and entering any required purchase information together with the selected service on said purchaser  
20 terminal, and to transfer a service purchase request information to the provider terminal on the service provider offering said selected service;

(d) allowing said mediator server to receive, from said provider terminal and over the network, the decision on whether  
25 to accept or decline the service purchase request made by said service provider looking at said service offering information displayed on said provider terminal, and record the information on the decision, i. e., accept or decline, on said database; and

(e) allowing said mediator server to notify the decision  
30 to said service purchaser.

22. The program product as defined in Claim 21, wherein said program product further comprises the steps of:

(f) enabling said mediator server to provide a service type list-selection display on which service types offered by  
5 said service provider are listed, and send the service type list-selection display to said purchaser terminal for display



on said purchaser terminal as part of the service offering information;

(g) enabling said mediator server to provide an  
10 opportunity for said service purchaser to select a desired service type from said service type list-selection display displayed on said purchaser terminal, and if required, to select a particular service item from the service items listed in the service type selected, and for enabling said mediator server to  
15 respond to said selection made by said service purchaser for searching in said database for the information for the service providers associated with said selected service type recorded on said database, and if found, to edit the service provider information to provide a service provider list-selection  
20 display and send it to said service purchaser for display on said purchaser terminal; and

(h) enabling said mediator server to provide an opportunity for said service purchaser to select a service provider that offers the service to be purchased from said  
25 service provider list-selection display and optionally enter the terms and conditions under which the service is to be purchased, and for enabling said mediator server to receive the service purchase information from said service purchaser when the desired service is confirmed by said service purchaser.  
23. The program product as defined in Claim 20 or 21, wherein said program product further comprises the steps of:

(i) enabling said mediator server to generate a registration number to be assigned to said service provider prior to recording said service offering registration information on said database, to record the generated service provider registration number together with said service offering registration information said database, and to send said service provider registration number to said provider terminal; and

(j) enabling said mediator server to generate a registration number to be assigned to said service purchaser prior to recording said purchaser identification information on said database, to record the generated service purchaser registration number together with said purchaser identification information on said database, and to send said service purchaser registration number to said purchaser terminal.